THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No scheme has been finalised for the supply of diesel oil at international prices to deep sea fishing vessels.

Rehabilitation of deep sea fishing industry

458. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of rehabilitation and relief in the existing rehabilitation programme for deep sea fishing industry that his Ministry have jointly drawn up with the Banking Department; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the present scheme envisages raising of huge amounts by operators even though the industry has been sick for the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Following are some of the para-meters for providing rehabilitation/relief to the SDFC assisted deep sea fishing projects:—

(i) Repayment of all outstanding Government dues and deferred debt to be made within a period of 12 years including a period of moratorium of two years. This will be subject to the remaining economic life of the vessel. It could, however, be relaxed to 13 years in cases where the Debt Service Coverage Ratio so requires on merits of the case.

(ii) Rate of interest on deferred (funded) interest may be kept low or may not be charged as the unit is sick anyway. In cases where the bona-fides of the company are doubtful a higher rate of interest may be adopted, which could be upto 50% of the documented rates. This would depend on the merits of the cases.

(iii) The projected Average Debt Service Coverage Ratio should be in the region of 1.3

(iv) The Rehabilitation Package should be approved subject to acceptance by the promoters of, and complete compliance with, all the terms and conditions set out.

(v) The promoters should open a no-lien account and provide personal guarantees.

(vi) The promoters should demonstrate their co-operation and commitment and should bring in some equity as promoters contribution.

Balance of Trade Position

459. SHRI DEBARATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what steps Government have taken during the last three months to improve the balance of trade position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): A series of steps have been taken for export promotion and import substitution to improve the balance of trade position. These are designed to make exports commercially viable through upgrading industrial efficiency, ensuring supply of raw materials at competetive prices, strengthening infrastructure, and simplifying procedures. Some of the steps taken in the recent past include announcement of special procedure for export of Non-Basmati rice and Safflower Seed; Promotion of export of Polyester Filament Yarn, Rayon Filament Yarn, Nylon Filament Yarn, Viscose Staple Fibre Spun Yarn, High performance Viscose Staple Fibre under special dispensation; increase in the minimum export prices of Buffallo Meat; Organisation of promotional programmes

and Buyer-Seller meets for promotion of Mangoes in Hamburg, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Paris, London, etc. Simultaneusly, steps have been taken to reduce imports. Some of the steps taken in the recent past include: transference of some items of capital goods from the Open General Licence List to Licensable list; List attestation procedures has been streamlined for import of raw materials and components under OGL for the actual users engaged in the manufacture of Automobiles, Electronic items and consumer durables; import cut of 15% imposed on import entitlement of actual users engaged in the manufacture of Automobiles, electronic items and consumer durable. The 15% cut will be on the import of raw materials and components under OGL as well as against the Supplementary Licences.

Steps to improve foreign exchange position

460. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what steps have been taken to improve the foreign exchange position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): Steps have been taken to maintain and improve the foreign exchange reserves position by initiating a number of measures to promote exports and curtail inessential imports. Attempts are also being made to augment foreign exchange earnings through invisible earnings and capital inflows, including accelerated disbursement of external assistance.

Relief to fishing industry

461. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deep sea fishing industry has been recognised as a sick industry by Government;

(b) what are the details of the rehabilitation programme brought into force by SCICI and the Banking Department to revive the industry;

(c) whether it is a fact that the fishing industry is being asked to raise fresh capital for repayment to SCICI;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to announce a practical scheme of rehabilitation and relief for the fishing industry; and

(e) what are the reasons for not giving sufficient relief?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The Deep Sea Fishing Industry has not been recognised as a sick industry under the Sick Industrial Companies Act (Special Provision) Act, 1985. However, Government of India on the recommendation of SCICI is considering rehabilitation assistance to a number of Deep Sea Fishing Companies which are sick but are potentially viable subject to certain norms and para meters.

(b) to (e) The basis of rehabilitation assistance under consideration meets the major criteria of reasonable commitment on the part of the promoters, reasonable amount of monitoring controls and financial discipline and manageable financial burden on the companies in terms of servicing the outstanding debt and overdue interest.

Proposal for Excise Duty Reduction Under Textile Policy, 1985

462. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Policy, 1985 envisaged reduction in excise duties in a phased manner with a view to give relief to the consumers;

(b) whether it is a fact that a beginning was made in this direction during the Budget, 1988-89 but in the current